

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
**COUNCIL POLICY**

CURRENT

SUBJECT: ENERGY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT  
POLICY NO.: 900-02  
EFFECTIVE DATE: June 19, 2001

BACKGROUND:

City Council Policy 900-02 “Energy Conservation” was approved in April 1976 as a means to achieve energy conservation goals targeted for the year 2000. Since that time, our region’s dependence on out-of-state energy supplies has grown while the assurance of meeting our needs has diminished. In contrast to the policy goals, statewide energy deregulation in 1998 resulted in the year 2000 being marked with unprecedented price volatility and market instability.

The citizens of the City of San Diego are entitled to an adequate and reliable supply of energy. Shortages of energy negatively affect the local economy and hamper the delivery of essential public services. It is therefore necessary that the City, within the areas of its authority, establish guidelines for the conservation of energy so that optimum use is made of available energy supplies. This updated version of Council Policy 900-02 is presented to address the current circumstances and to forestall a continuation of unbridled energy use.

PURPOSE:

It is the intent of the City Council that the City of San Diego exemplify adherence to energy conservation guidelines, and that all measures are taken to successfully reach goals established by the City’s Energy Conservation and Management Program.

POLICY:

The extent of the City’s influence on energy conservation varies with the degree of its authority in specific areas of energy consumption. The policy of the City in the categories of City Operations, City Regulated Activities, Indirect Influence, and Public Education are as follows:

A. City Operations

1. Purchasing

It is the policy of the City to maximize energy conservation measures when purchasing equipment and products, e.g. “Energy Star” labeled products. (Council Policy 900-02, June 19, 2001.)

2. Construction

It is the policy of the City that design and specifications for public facilities be evaluated and selected on the basis of total lifetime costs of construction and operation and that such specifications be reviewed continually so that the most current energy conservation techniques, materials, and appliances are utilized in their construction, and result in facilities that are at least 25% more energy efficient than required by Title 24. (See Council Policy 900-14).

3. Building Maintenance and Operation

It is the policy of the City that all its buildings will be maintained and operated in such a fashion that the minimum amounts of energy are consumed.

4. Vehicles

It is the policy of the City to operate and maintain vehicles in such a manner as to insure maximum energy conserving performance. Wherever possible, City employees will utilize alternate modes (i.e. telephone e-mail, etc.) in lieu of vehicles in the performance of their work.

5. Energy Reliability and Independence

It is the policy of the City to reduce demand on the energy grid and to enhance energy reliability and independence for City facilities. The City will pursue the innovative application of new non-depleting energy sources including but not limited to solar energy, landfill gas, sewage sludge gas, wastewater outfall, and pumped storage sites in the provision of its regular municipal functions.

6. Innovative Projects

It is the policy of the City to pursue the innovative application of new non-depleting energy sources including but not limited to solar energy, sewage sludge gas, wastewater outfall, and pumped storage sites in the provision of its regular municipal functions.

7. Energy Budgeting

Energy budgets shall be established for all major City activities so that the levels of service prescribed by the Council are carried out with the highest level of energy efficiency. Standards of energy consumption shall be developed for each activity, and based upon these standards budgets prepared which detail the quantity of energy available to carry out each activity.

8. Off-Peak Use

It is the policy of the City to maximize its proportionate off-peak hour use of gas and electricity and to encourage and promote the adoption of off-peak rates by the utility company.

B. City Regulated Activities

1. Urban Development

It is the policy of the City to foster patterns of urban development that minimize vehicular travel generated without significantly impairing the City's ability to function.

2. Transportation

It is the policy of the City that programs be developed in cooperation with other governmental agencies, as well as the private sector, that will provide safe and energy-efficient transportation within the San Diego region. These programs shall consist of but not be limited to the following:

- a) Transit development programs
- b) Car-pool programs
- c) Non-motorized transportation programs
- d) Traffic signal coordination programs

3. Lighting on Private Property

a) Signs

It is the policy of the City to encourage the moderate use of sign illumination.

b) Ornamental

It is the policy of the City to encourage reduced use of ornamental lighting.

4. Building Code Revisions

It is the policy of the City to continually evaluate and update the Building Code so that the most current energy conservation techniques, materials and appliances are utilized in the construction of buildings by the private sector.

5. Redevelopment Areas

It is the policy of the City to require master plans for redevelopment areas that combine urban design, land use, and energy delivery elements in patterns, which will yield optimal long-term results in terms of utility, beauty, and conservation of energy.

C. Indirect Influence

1. Legislation

It is the policy of the City to support State and Federal legislation to conserve energy, while at the same time attempting to preserve the quality of life of the citizens of the City. Also, it is the policy of the City to support legislation which would grant property tax relief on and income tax incentives for installations of solar energy heating/cooling equipment, windmills, and other devices which use non-depleting energy sources.

2. Automobiles

It is the policy of the City to encourage its citizens to limit the non-essential use of automobiles and to use mass transit or other forms of energy-efficient transportation whenever possible.

3. Lending Institutions and Developers

It is the policy of the City to encourage lending institutions and developers to promote the construction of energy efficient buildings.

4. Building Design

It is the policy of the City to encourage and promote the design of individual buildings and groups of buildings (i.e. residential, commercial, and industrial developments) so as to optimize the use of the sun, shadow, and wind and minimize dependence upon mechanical heating and cooling devices and result in facilities that are at least 25% more energy efficient than required by Title 24. (See Council Policy 900-14).

D. Public Education

It is the policy of the City to actively promote the dissemination of energy conservation and management information to the citizens of the City as well as to provide incentives to encourage implementation of energy saving programs.

REFERENCES:

Council Policy 900-14,	Sustainable Building Practices (“Green Building”) For Public and Private Building Projects
Council Policy 900-18,	Purchase of Energy Efficient Products

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**HISTORY:**

Adopted by Resolution R-215806 04/21/1976

Amended by Resolution R-295074 06/19/2001